

Remarks

In the present application, amendments to claims 12, 21, 23, 30 and 35 have been presented. Amendments to the Drawings and to the Specification have also been proposed. Claims 1 to 5, 12 to 17, 19 to 25, 28 to 39 and 40 remain pending. Claims 1 to 5 and 35 to 39 have been previously allowed. Entry of these proposed amendments and reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the Drawings as not clearly indicating every feature specified in the claims. Applicants have proposed amendments to FIGS. 21 and 22 to address these objections. No new matter has been entered by these amendments. These amendments merely provide additional reference numbers relating to elements of features already included in the Drawings. In addition, amendments to the Specification have been submitted to describe and identify those features indicated by the new reference numbers. Entry of the Formal Drawings (including the amendments to Figs. 21 and 22), the amendments to the Specification, and withdrawal of the objections to the Drawings are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objected to claims 12, 30 and 35 for informalities. Amendments have been proposed to correct these informalities. Entry of the claim amendments and withdrawal of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 12 to 17, 19 to 22, 28 to 34 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that the proposed Amendments to the Specification and the Proposed Amended Drawings provide adequate written description for all limitations included in the rejected claims. Entry of the proposed amendments to the Drawings and the Specification are respectfully requested. Upon entry of these amendments, Applicants submit that claims 12 to 17, 19

to 22, 28 to 34 and 41 are fully and adequately described to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Applicants submit that entry of the proposed amendments will place claims 12 to 17, 19 to 22, 28 to 34 and 41 in condition for immediate allowance.

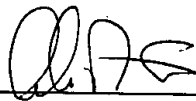
Claims 12 to 17 and 21 to 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Amendments to claim 12 address the antecedent basis rejection of the Examiner. Amendments to claim 21 address the Examiner's comment with regard to claim 21. Claim 23 has been amended to address the antecedent basis rejection of the Examiner. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 12, 21 and 23 will place claims 12 to 17 and 21 to 25 in condition for immediate allowance.

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request that the proposed amendments to the Drawings and Specification included herein be entered and a Notice of Allowance for the present application be returned.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this material in this Amendment and Response After Final, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative Alan Stewart at 612.371.5376.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: January 15, 2003

By: 
Name: Alan R. Stewart
Reg. No.: 47,974
ARS:pll